

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Ecuador **CONFIDENTIAL**

SUBJECT Disaffection in the Montecristi Infantry Battalion

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ACQUIRED 

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1. During a visit on 29 January 1949 to Puyo, Ecuador, Vice President Manuel Sotomayor y Luna, learned that the greater part of the Montecristi Infantry Battalion is opposed to the present regime in Ecuador.
2. The Montecristi Battalion is composed of some 350 officers and men and is commanded by Major Eduardo Silva Guerra, a self-styled leftist and opponent of the present government. Several officers and sergeants confirmed the views of Silva and stated that a large number of the men in the battalion felt the same way. They stated that a solution could be reached by relieving the Minister of National Defense and numerous other high officers of their duties at once.
3. Silva and other officers were said to receive a good many politicians from Ambato and Quito who frequently visit the barracks to discuss radical politics.
4. The chief complaint of the troops against the government appears to be their low salaries and unfavorable living conditions.

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